

Agency: Department of Education and Early Development**Project Title:**

Southeast Island School District - School Vehicle

State Funding Requested: \$ 45,000
One-Time Need**House District: 1 - A****Brief Project Description:**

Purchase of school vehicle to allow for safe transportation for students, and to facilitate education and extracurricular activities amongst remote communities.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$45,000**Funding Secured*Amount FY*Other Pending Requests*Amount FY*Anticipated Future Need*Amount FY*

There is no other funding needed

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Item is \$45,000 to purchase a vehicle for the school in Coffman Cove. The Southeast Island School District consists of several schools in remote communities on Prince of Wales Island and around Southern Southeast Alaska. Transportation in this remote area makes educational and extracurricular activities difficult to organize. The City of Coffman cove, like other schools within the district, is seeking to purchase an SUV to be used to transport students on back-roads for school events. This funding will allow for safe transportation for students, and expanded education and extracurricular opportunities for students in Coffman Cove.

Project Timeline:

FY09

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Southeast Island School District or Designee

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

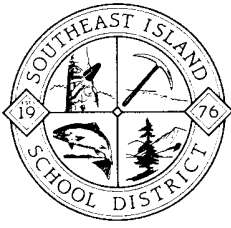
Contact Name: Lauren Burch

Phone Number: 907-828-8254

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No



SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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February 15, 2008

Senator Stedman
Alaska Senate
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: Vehicle for Coffman Cove

Dear Senator Stedman,

We would like to request any support you can offer towards purchasing a vehicle for the students at the Howard Valentine School in Coffman Cove. We are trying to expand the practice of having a vehicle at each site for student activities. A new Tahoe will cost about \$45,000.00. Any support you can provide will be appreciated.

Our sites are scattered badly and getting between the sites for activities is weather dependent. Our sites are too small to have independent sports teams and students have to travel daily to participate in practice. As we speak, one student travels to Thorne Bay to participate in high school basketball. There are just enough students to form a team by combining schools. The team would not exist without this effort. We make it work with a combination of parent transportation and school vehicles. To be quite honest, I worry about student safety during the winter. Parents make a valiant effort to get students to practice after school. By next year, the road will be paved between Thorne Bay and Coffman Cove. Regardless, students will be safer in our vehicles.

We have been running a small fleet of Chevrolet Tahoes for about 6 years. They have proven to be exceptionally safe and hardy for our travel conditions and do improve staff and student safety. During that time, there have been countless days when a bus could not operate and several times a year when a bus has been off the road and stuck. In that period of time there has never been a Tahoe in any form of distress with students on board. We are expanding into archery,

marksmanship and 3-on-3 basketball as a way to engage our students. This only puts more pressure on our limited transportation pool and leads to more student movement between schools. The only practical approach is to base a vehicle at each site.

We added a Tahoe at the Naukati School when it was build several years ago and it has proven to be a significant asset. We would like to do the same for the students of Coffman Cove. It has proven to be an important tool in getting students involved in student activities. Any support you can offer is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lauren Burch, Superintendent
Southeast Island School District
lburch@sisd.org
(907) 828-8254